

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/08  
 LAST UPDATED 2/8/08      HB 564

SPONSOR Chasey

SHORT TITLE Add Statewide Officers to Voter Action Act      SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Ortiz

### REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09	FY10		
	(\$5,400.0)	(\$5,400.0)	Recurring	General Fund
	\$5,400.0	\$5,400.0	Recurring	Public Election Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Revenue Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Responses Received From  
 Attorney General's Office (AGO)  
 Secretary of State (SOS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 564 amends the Voter Action Act to include officers on a statewide basis. It also, as shown in the table below, includes the amount of money to be distributed from the public election fund to a certified candidate for contested primary and general elections. In uncontested elections the amount of money distributed is 50 percent of the amount specified below.

Certified Candidate (Year)	Contested PRIMARY Elections	Contested GENERAL Elections
Governor (2014)	\$1.75	\$1.75
Lieutenant Governor (2014)	\$0.25	\$0.25
Attorney General (2010)	\$0.75	\$0.75
Secretary of State (2010)	\$0.25	\$0.25
Commissioner of Public Lands (2010)	\$0.50	\$0.50
State Auditor & State Treasure (2010)	\$0.20	\$0.20

**Amounts are in dollars and represent amount per voter of the candidate's party statewide.**

The bill also increases the amount distributed into the public election fund from \$100 thousand per month to \$450 thousand per month.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This bill distributes \$450 thousand per month, or \$5.4 million annually, from the Tax Administration Suspense Fund to the Public Election Fund.

There is an impact on the Tax Administration Suspense Fund that reverts to the general fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Rather than being forced to rely on special interest donors to pay for their campaigns, candidates have the opportunity to qualify for public funding which ends their reliance on special interest campaign cash. Common Cause, a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization for citizens to make their voices heard in the political process and to hold their elected leaders accountable to the public interest, suggests that being freed from the money chase means candidates have more time to spend addressing issues that matter to their constituents. When they enter office, they can consider legislation on the merits, without worrying about whether they are pleasing well heeled donors and lobbyists.

EO/bb